OH... MISTER TAROU. EVERYONE ELSE HAS ALREADY LEFT. LADY DAMSELFLY DRAGGED KUMA OFF TO SOME PLACE.
...LET'S JUST HOPE HE HASN'T BEEN TURNED INTO A TOY
「俺と蛙さんの異世界放浪記」第22話
...
THE BATH IS MORE OR LESS FINISHED.
WHAT IS IT, MISTER TAROU?
YES HE PROBABLY CAN'T GO AGAINST HER
YEAH
UH... THAT'S PROBABLY THE BEST OPTION.
BUT KAWAZU GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY SO I'LL HAVE TO CARRY HIM BACK

原作：くずもち／漫画：笠

NO
I'M QUITE GRATEFUL!
THIS HOUSE IS VERY NICE
IN FACT,
I FEEL IT'S TOO GOOD FOR ME
...IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS HOUSE I CAN MAKE A NORMAL ONE
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT
IT'S FINE
THIS IS YOUR HOUSE AFTER ALL
OUR HOUSE
THAT'S RIGHT!
OR DO YOU NOT WANT IT?
IT JUST FEEL THAT THIS HOUSE IS TOO GOOD
THAT'S NOT THE CASE
NOT AT ALL
I'VE ALWAYS WISHED
TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN A TREE
THOUGH THAT WAS WHEN I WAS A CHILD

WAIT DID I PERHAPS DO SOME THING I SHOULDN'T HAVE?
I WAS THINKING OF GOING ON A JOURNEY
I WASN'T REALLY SURE IF YOU WOULD ACCEPT US
THANK YOU
IS THAT REALLY WHY?
YES
I ACTUALLY DID WISH TO THANK YOU IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT MY MOTHER'S SIN WAS FORGIVEN AFTER ALL
THAT'S NOT IT I JUST DIDN'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO GO
HUH... SOUNDS TOUGH
DARK ELVES ARE GENERALLY NOT ACCEPTED ANYWHERE
IS IT?
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL WAY OF THINKING
WELL WE DID CAUSE SOME TROUBLE ALSO IF A BEAUTY IS IN TROUBLE YOU SHOULD HELP HER

SO I'M JUST AMUSEMENT?
YOU DIDN'T REALIZE IT?
THE FACT THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU EXIST MAKES THINGS INTERESTING
THAT'S TRUE BUT...
...
I SEE
DID HE? I DON'T REALLY MIND
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
SERENADE TOLD ME ABOUT WHY YOU WERE STAYING THERE
THAT REMINDS ME...

NOT AT ALL. IF ANYTHING I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT MY CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE YOU HELPED ME SO MUCH
KAWAZU'S NOT LOOKING TOO GOOD EITHER SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING
ALRIGHT I'LL GET GOING NOW
I SEE...
I'M AFRAID THAT'S ONE THING I CAN'T DO FOR YOU.
COULD YOU NOT CALL ME 'MISTER'?
WHAT IS IT?
I DO HAVE ONE WISH THOUGH
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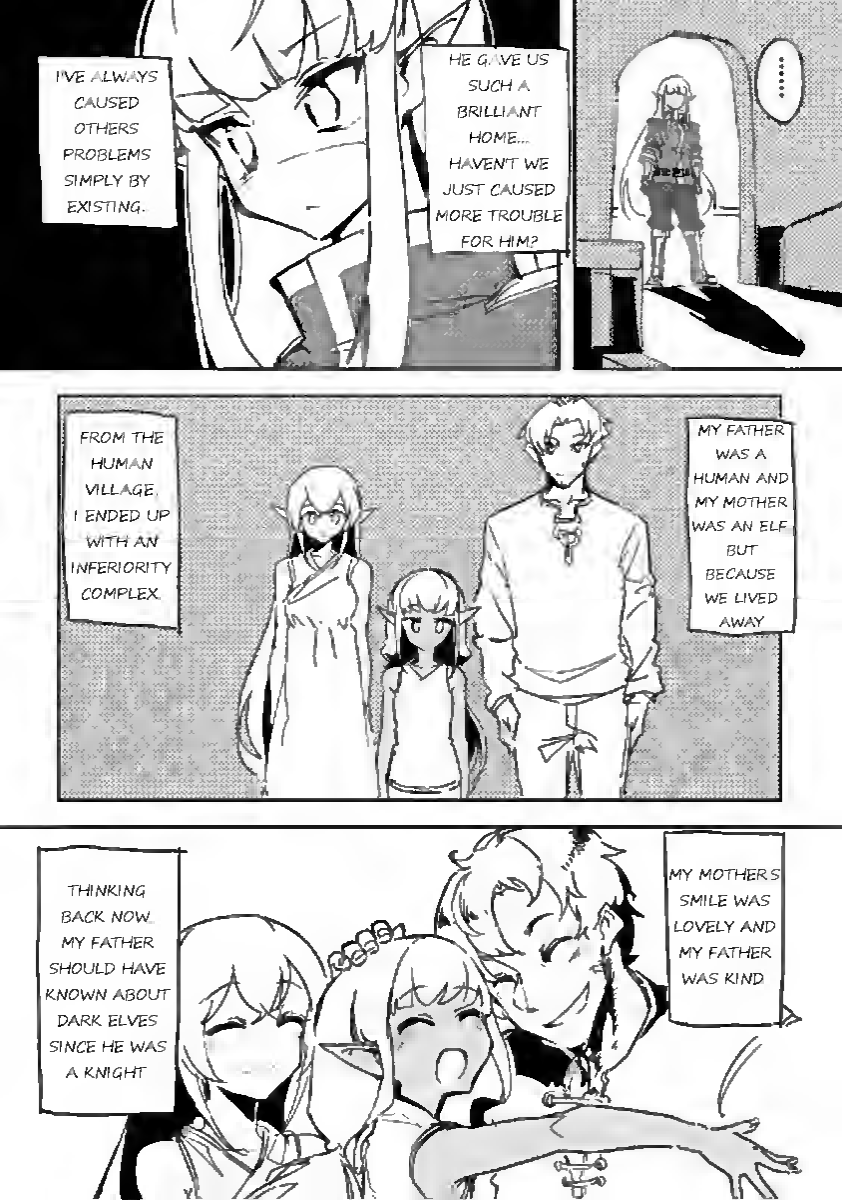
バタッ
SO THAT WON'T HAPPEN...

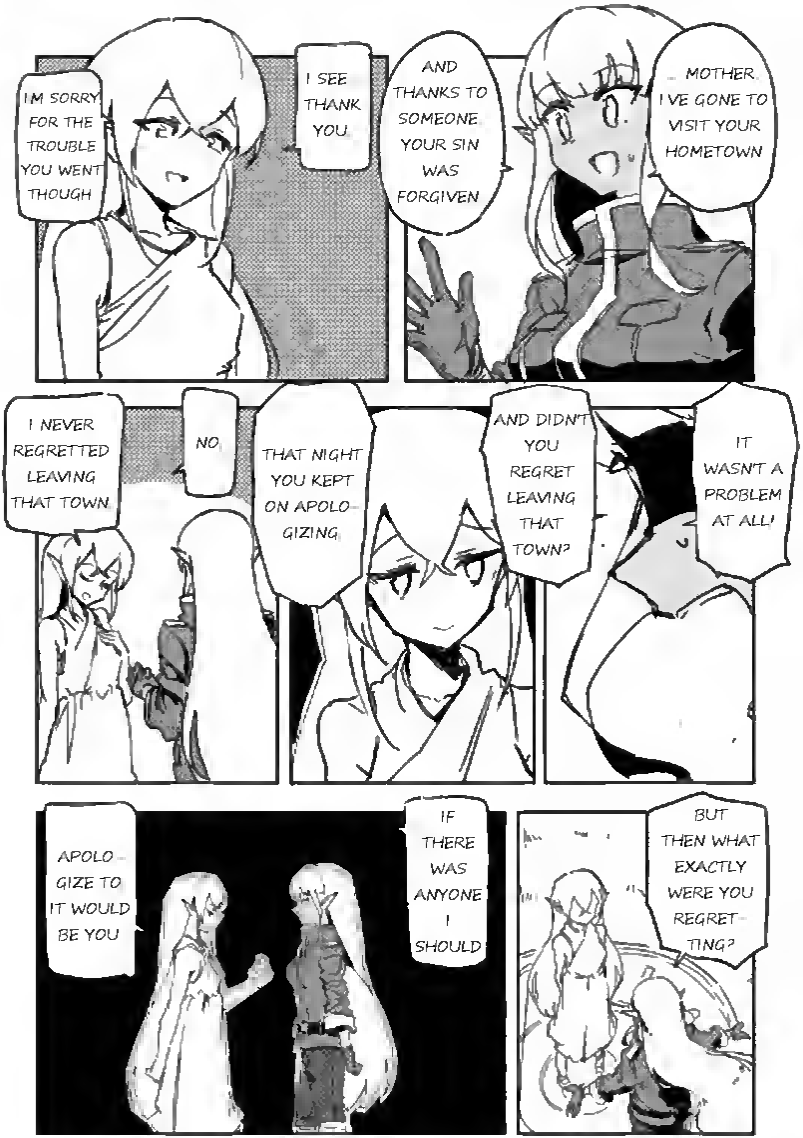

I'VE ALWAYS CAUSED OTHERS PROBLEMS SIMPLY BY EXISTING.
HE GAVE US SUCH A BRILLIANT HOME... HAVEN'T WE JUST CAUSED MORE TROUBLE FOR HIM?
.....
FROM THE HUMAN VILLAGE, I ENDED UP WITH AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
MY FATHER WAS A HUMAN AND MY MOTHER WAS AN ELF, BUT BECAUSE WE LIVED AWAY
THINKING BACK NOW, MY FATHER SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT DARK ELVES SINCE HE WAS A KNIGHT
MY MOTHER'S SMILE WAS LOVELY AND MY FATHER WAS KIND

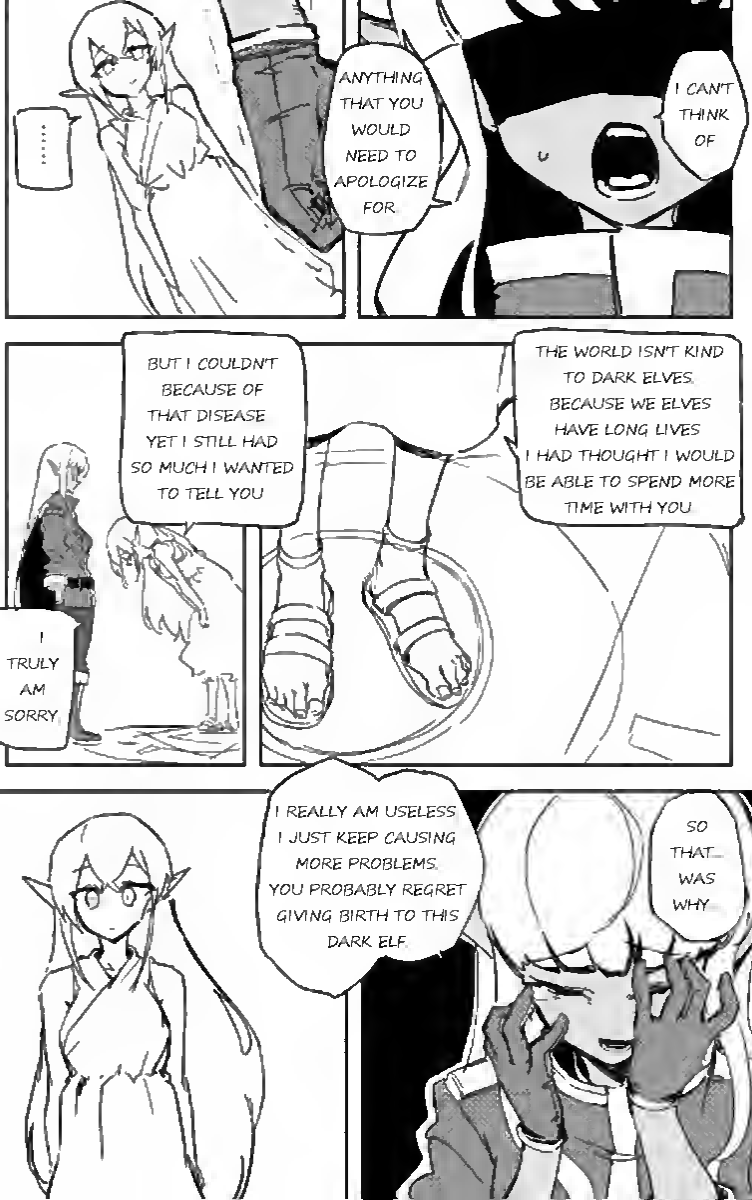
WAS MY FATHER'S FAVORITE PHRASE...
'YOU ARE NOT A KNIGHT BECAUSE OF YOUR BIRTH BUT BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS STRIVE TO BE ONE'
I BELIEVED THAT KNIGHTS WERE RIGHTEOUS, DEFENDED THOSE WHO NEEDED DEFENDING, AND WOULD GIVE UP THEIR LIVES FOR A MASTER THEY BELIEVED IN.
I ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO HIM AS A CHILD
JUST WHAT AM I NOW?
I LIVED ALL THIS TIME BELIEVING IN THAT.

IN HER DYING MOMENTS MOTHER KEPT BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS FOR SOMETHING.
BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HER WORDS ACTUALLY MEANT.
AFTER FATHER DIED AND MOTHER PASSED AWAY FROM AN ILLNESS, I WENT ON A JOURNEY.
ALONG THE JOURNEY I CAME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ELVES AND DARK ELVES WERE
TO FIGURE THAT OUT, I SOUGHT OUT HER HOME-TOWN.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD CALL MYSELF A KNIGHT LIKE THIS.
I WAS LUCKY AND ATTAINED MY OWN FREEDOM WHILE HAVING MY MOTHER'S SIN FORGIVEN. BUT NOW I'VE COME TO LIVE WITH MY BENEFACTOR WITHOUT TAKING ANYTHING INTO CONSIDERATION.
MOTHER NO DOUBT REGRETTED GIVING BIRTH TO ME AND ABANDONING THE ELVEN TOWN

WHAT?
MOTHER
FATHER
WHAT SHOULD
I DO?
ズッ
ゴゴゴゴゴ
カラッ

IS THAT... REALLY YOU?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
MOTH ER?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE CAN TALK FOR A BIT NOW
OF COURSE I WAS ALSO SURPRISED THAT THIS MAGIC EXISTS
HAA...

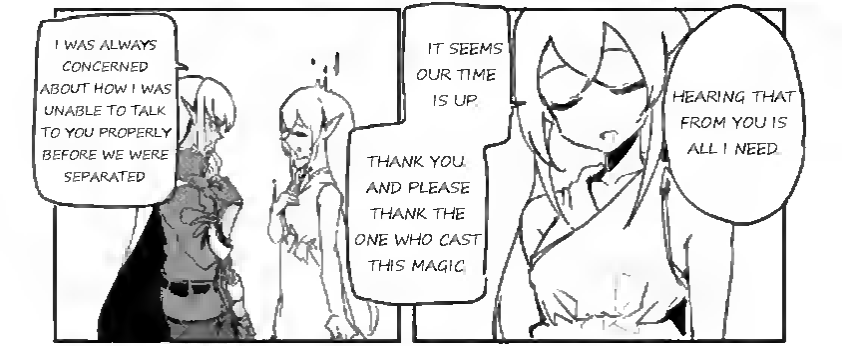

I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE YOU WENT THOUGH
I SEE THANK YOU.
AND THANKS TO SOMEONE YOUR SIN WAS FORGIVEN
- MOTHER. I'VE GONE TO VISIT YOUR HOMETOWN
I NEVER REGRETTED LEAVING THAT TOWN.
NO.
THAT NIGHT YOU KEPT ON APOLO- GIZING.
AND DIDN'T YOU REGRET LEAVING THAT TOWN?
IT WASN'T A PROBLEM AT ALL!
APOLO- GIZE TO IT WOULD BE YOU
IF THERE WAS ANYONE I SHOULD
BUT THEN WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU REGRET- TING?


.....
ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
I CAN'T THINK OF
BUT I COULDN'T BECAUSE OF THAT DISEASE YET I STILL HAD SO MUCH I WANTED TO TELL YOU
THE WORLD ISN'T KIND TO DARK ELVES. BECAUSE WE ELVES HAVE LONG LIVES I HAD THOUGHT I WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH YOU.
I TRULY AM SORRY.
I REALLY AM USELESS I JUST KEEP CAUSING MORE PROBLEMS. YOU PROBABLY REGRET GIVING BIRTH TO THIS DARK ELF.
SO THAT... WAS WHY...

I'M PROUD TO BE YOUR MOTHER PLEASE REMEMBER THAT
NOT AT ALL
SO DON'T LAUGH WITH THAT TEARFUL FACE
YOUR FATHER AND I LOVE YOU IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A DARK ELF SO DON'T HATE YOURSELF
THAT'S NOT TRUE REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHERS THINK
I THOUGHT YOU BLAMED ME FOR THAT!
— BUT IN THE ELVEN TOWN DARK ELVES ARE SEEN AS ABOMINATIONS!
BECAUSE OF ME YOU COULDN'T RETURN TO YOUR OWN HOMETOWN!

TRYING YOUR HARDEST, SO WE'RE STILL CONNECTED SOMEHOW.
EVEN AFTER WE PASSED AWAY, WE COULD FEEL HOW YOU WERE
.....
PERHAPS ALL I WANTED WAS THIS CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU, MOTHER.
I SEE...

ALL MY EFFORT HASN'T BEEN IN VAIN...
I'LL BE FINE


I WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT HOW I WAS UNABLE TO TALK TO YOU PROPERLY BEFORE WE WERE SEPARATED
IT SEEMS OUR TIME IS UP.
THANK YOU. AND PLEASE THANK THE ONE WHO CAST THIS MAGIC.
HEARING THAT FROM YOU IS ALL I NEED.

.....
YES TAKE CARE...
YEAH THANKS... FAREWELL MOTHER

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
WHAT DID YOU DO THIS TIME?
I HOPE IT WENT SMOOTHLY
HM?
I JUST FELT A TERRIFYING SURGE OF MANA. WELL?
U
KNIGHT SEEMED TO BE DOWN. SO I FIGURED THAT INSTEAD OF TALKING TO ME, TALKING TO HER MOTHER WOULD CHEER HER UP
ABOUT WHAT?
BUT TAROU DID YOU THINK ABOUT IT?
UH PROBABLY.
DID IT WORK?

FOR ALL BE KNOW SHE MAY JUST DESPISE HER OWN CHILD.
CAN YOU REALLY BE SURE THAT SHE ACTUALLY THINKS WELL OF HER DAUGHTER?
... WHILE YOU WERE ABLE TO CALL HER SPIRIT HERE...
HAAH...
SHE WOULDN'T COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SAY SOMETHING BAD... RIGHT?
I... I THINK IT'LL BE FINE
THAT YOU DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER THAT POSSIBILITY...
DON'T TELL ME
ゴポン
... OKAY.
TAROU... GET RID OF THE BARRIER.
グぉ

AND THAT GIRL PROBABLY WON'T TRY HITTING YOU, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING I'VE DONE WILL MEAN ANYTHING.
...!
... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IN-DEED.
YOU'RE RIGHT... I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF
IF YOU FEEL BAD, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER HER FEELINGS.
... THAT'S TRUE.
AAAGH!

WAS THAT YOUR MAGIC, MISTER TAROU?
UM...
ビン
Y-YES! UH... I'M REALLY SORRY!
PLEASE DON'T DO THOSE SORT OF THINGS SO SUDDENLY. I NEED SOME TIME TO PREPARE.
I REALLY SCREWED UP...
BUT
THANK YOU
AS THANKS FOR USING YOUR POWERS TO HELP ME
I SWEAR TO RETURN THIS FAVOR EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE.
FOR NOW I HOPE YOU WILL JUST ACCEPT MY WORDS

BUT LET'S SEE...
I WOULDN'T THINK OF IT.
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME?
HUH? YOU'RE NOT GONNA KILL ME?
BECAUSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED TODAY, I WILL HENCEFORTH
ADDRESS YOU AS SIR TAROU!